

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 188205

62

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DRAFTED BY OES/NET/IM:MPROCHN-K

APPROVED BY OES/NET/IM:DHOYLE

EUR/RPE - J.WOLFE

ERDA - J.VANDERRYN

EB/ORF/FFE - D. HICKEY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, FR

SUBJECT: IEA: SUBGROUP ON ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT:
MEETING OF AD HOC EXPERT GROUP ON URANIUM PROSPECTING

REF: OECD PARIS 20338

1. PROPOSED MEETING AS DESCRIBED IN REFTTEL RAISES A
NUMBER OF QUESTIONS REQUIRING CLARIFICATION.

2. THIS IS FIRST DEPARTMENT AND ERDA HAVE HEARD OF IEA
R&D SUBGROUP INTEREST IN SPONSORING MEETING ON URANIUM
PROSPECTING. HAS CONCEPT OF EXPERT GROUP AND MEETING
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BEEN DISCUSSED WITH SCHMIDT-KUESTER?

3. SOUTH AFRICA, AUSTRALIA, FRANCE AMONG MAJOR URANIUM PRODUCING COUNTRIES. HOW HAS ISSUE OF NON-IEA MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN IEA R&D SUBGROUP ACTIVITY BEEN ADDRESSED? DIRECT IAEA INVOLVEMENT IN DISCUSSIONS TAKING PLACE UNDER IEA AUSPICES WHILE PERHAPS DESIRABLE ALSO, NEEDS POLITICAL ASSESSMENT.

4. WHAT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF URANIUM PROSPECTING WOULD MEETING ATTEMPT TO COVER? WOULD IT BE ORIENTED TO RESOURCE ASSESSMENT OR PROSPECTING TECHNOLOGY?

5. AS MISSION KNOWS, US, IN CONJUNCTION WITH IEA MEMBER COUNTRIES, NOW EXAMINING WAYS IN WHICH NUCLEAR PROGRAMS OF AGENCY MIGHT BE EXPANDED. UNTIL DECISION AGREED UPON REGARDING MECHANISM AND SCOPE FOR ANY CHANGE IN IEA NUCLEAR ROLE, WE WOULD WISH TO AVOID PREMATURELY LINKING IMPORTANT NEW ACTIVITY SUCH AS URANIUM PROSPECTING COOPERATION TO EXISTING IEA ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE.

6. WILLIAMS/BOSWORTH LETTER MAY CAST MORE LIGHT ON SOME OF THE ISSUES WE HAVE RAISED BUT AT THIS POINT DEPARTMENT NOT PREPARED TO AGREE TO MEETING UNTIL REQUESTED INFORMATION RECEIVED AND EVALUATED. KISSINGER

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